



RICK SNYDER
GOVERNOR

STATE OF MICHIGAN
DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
LANSING



DR. WILLIAM E. MORITZ
DIRECTOR

SUBMITTED:

February 16, 2016

MEMORANDUM TO THE DIRECTOR

Information: Natural Resources Commission

Subject: Order to Open Riding Opportunities for Equestrians within the Pigeon River Country State Forest, Cheboygan and Otsego Counties
Land Use Order of the Director Amendment No. 3 of 2016
FOR INFORMATION ONLY

Authority:

The Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act, 1994 PA 451, as amended, authorizes the Director to issue orders to implement land use rules.

Discussion and Background:

The purpose of this order is to open and reroute equine trails within the Pigeon River Country State Forest (PRCSF), which will be designated and posted as open as provided for in the existing Land Use Order of the Director 4.34. As shown on the attached map, this order will allow about 5.6 miles of additional riding on 16 segments of closed service roads and single track trails within the forest, and reroute 2 short segments of existing trail totaling about 0.25 miles.

The PRCSF is the largest contiguous block of state-owned land in the Lower Peninsula and home to Michigan's elk herd. A large part of this forest area was purchased with Fish and Game fund monies and wildlife management is a key consideration. It has long been managed to protect the unique resource values while offering a variety of resource management opportunities and quiet recreational pursuits. Many recreational activities, including equestrian riding, mountain biking and snowmobiles, are managed for a high degree of resource protection and to minimize conflicts among users. These equine trail proposals are part of a final equestrian work plan formulated by the Pigeon River Country Equestrian Committee (PRCEC) and adopted by the Department. The goal of the work plan was to provide additional recreation opportunities while still protecting the unique values of the PRCSF. These proposed trails, along with 7.5 miles approved in 2013, will provide an extensive system of equine routes for looped riding opportunities.

The trails that are proposed to be designated and posted open are a combination of fire lanes that were cleared by the Civilian Conservation Corps for fire protection, service roads closed to vehicles, and single track trails that developed before restrictions were placed on equine use in

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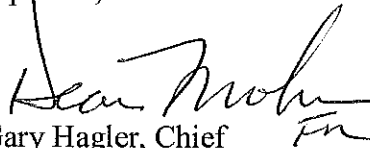
February 16, 2016


2008. The proposed trails are located on lands not acquired with Game and Fish funds and will be monitored for resource damage, illegal spur trails, spread of invasive plants, and conflicts with other users. A suite of trails were reviewed and the majority was endorsed by the Pigeon River Country Advisory Council (PRCAC) at its July 16, 2015 meeting, and was also endorsed by the PRCEC. In a few instances when the PRCAC and PRCEC could not reach a consensus on a trail proposal, members from each group met in a facilitated session in an effort to resolve differences. After taking input from both groups into account, Department staff is making these final recommendations to the director on each trail segment. The PRCEC also requested that 2 short segments of existing trail, totaling about 0.25 miles, be rerouted in favor of the preferred alternatives included in this proposal.


Recommendation:


This order is being submitted for information and consideration at the March 10, 2016 Natural Resources Commission meeting. This item appeared on the Department's February 2016 calendar and may be eligible for approval on April 14, 2016.

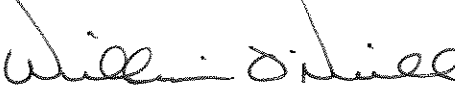

Debbie Begalle, Acting Chief
Forest Resources Division


Gary Hagler, Chief
Law Enforcement Division


Ronald A. Olson, Chief
Parks and Recreation Division


Russ Mason, Ph.D., Chief
Wildlife Division


James Dexter, Chief
Fisheries Division


William O'Neill
Natural Resources Deputy

LAND USE ORDERS OF THE DIRECTOR

Amendment No. 3 of 2016

By authority conferred on the Director of the Department of Natural Resources by Section 504 of the Natural Resources Environmental Protection Act, 1994 PA 451, as amended, MCL 324.504, and in accordance with R 299.921 to R 299.933, the Director of the Department of Natural Resources orders the following:

4.34 Pigeon river country state forest. Cheboygan, Montmorency and Otsego counties defined; prohibited conduct.

Order 4.34 (1) For the purposes of this order, the pigeon river country state forest shall mean those lands in sections 1-26, the N1/2 and the NW1/4 of the SE1/4 and the N1/2 of the SW1/4 of section 27, the N3/4 of section 28, the N3/4 and the SW1/4 of the SW1/4 of section 29, sections 30 and 31, the W1/2 of the NW1/4 of section 32, sections 35 and 36, T33N R1E; sections 1-36, T33N R1W; sections 19-21, W1/2 of section 22, N1/4 of the NW1/4 of section 27, sections 28-33, T34N R1E; SE1/4 of the SE1/4 of section 24, T33N R2W; sections 19-36, T34N R1W; W1/2 of the NW1/4 and the NW1/4 of the SW1/4 of section 5, section 6 except the SE1/4 of the SE1/4, section 7 except the NE1/4 of the NE1/4, the W1/2 of the SW1/4 and the SW1/4 of the NW1/4 of section 8, the W1/4 of section 17, sections 18 and 19, that part of section 20 west of blue lakes road and south of the N1/8 line and northerly and north westerly of black river, the part of section 30 northerly of hardwood creek and westerly of black river, the S1/4 of section 31, T32N R1E; sections 1-6, the N1/2 and the SE1/4 north of deer trail of section 7, sections 8-17, sections 20 and 21, the W3/4 of section 22, the SW1/4 and the S1/2 of the SE1/4 and the S1/2 of the NE1/4 of the SE1/4 of section 25, section 26 except the NE1/4 of the NE1/4, the N1/2 and the NE1/4 of the SE1/4 of section 27, the N3/4 of section 28, sections 29 and 30, the E1/2 of the NE1/4 of section 35, section 36 except the W1/2 of the SW1/4, T31N R1W; section 1 except the S1/2 of the SW1/4, T31N R2W; sections 1-36, T32N R1W; sections 1-5, section 8, the N3/4 of section 9, sections 10-15, the SE1/4 and the S1/2 of the SW1/4 and the SE1/4 of the NE1/4 of section 16, the S1/2 of the SE1/4 of section 17, the SE1/4 of the NE1/4 of section 19, section 20, section 21 except the SE1/4 south of east sturgeon valley road, section 22 except the SW1/4 south of the east sturgeon valley road, section 24, the E1/2 of the NE1/4 and the N1/2 of the SE1/4 and the SW1/4 of the SE1/4 and the E1/2 of the SW1/4 and that part of the NW1/4 of the NE1/4 north of east sturgeon valley road, and that part of the N1/2 of the NW1/4 north of east sturgeon valley road of section 29, the S3/4 of the SE1/4 of the SE1/4 and the SW1/4 of the SE1/4 except the north 165 ft. east of the thread of pigeon river and the east 940 ft. of the SE1/4 of the SW1/4 of section 36, T32N R2W; Cheboygan, Montmorency and Otsego counties. The following regulations shall apply to state-owned lands of the pigeon river country state forest.

Wheeled motorized vehicles; conditions for use.

(2) Except as otherwise prohibited in (3) of this order, a person may operate a wheeled motorized vehicle only if both of the following conditions are met:

- (a) The vehicle is currently registered under the Michigan Vehicle Code, 1949 PA 300.
- (b) The vehicle is operated on a forest road designated and illustrated as open on the pigeon river country state forest access map.

Motorized vehicles prohibited, green timbers management unit.

(3) A person shall not operate a motorized vehicle of any type upon state-owned lands lying within the W1/2 of section 3, sections 4, 5, 8-10, 15-17 and 19-22, and that part of section 29 lying northerly of the sturgeon valley road, T32N R2W, commonly known as the green timbers management unit.

Camping with horses, other riding animals, or pack animals restricted to certain areas.

(4) A person shall not camp with a horse or other riding or pack animals except at:

- (a) Elk hill equestrian state forest campground and trail camp.
- (b) Johnson's crossing trail camp.

(c) The following locations within the pigeon river country state forest in which designated campsites have been established for no more than 12 people using a maximum of four camping units and where a completed camp registration card must be posted:

- (i) The SE of the NE of section 27, T33N, R1E, Cheboygan county
- (ii) The SE of the SE of section 16, T32N, R1W, Otsego county
- (iii) The SW of the NW of section 36, T34N, R1W, Cheboygan county

Horses, riding animals and pack animals, use restricted to certain roads and pathways.

(5) A person shall not ride or lead a horse, other riding animal, or pack animal except on the north spur of the shore-to-shore riding – hiking trail; a county road; a forest road designated and illustrated as open on the pigeon river country state forest access map; **designated and posted equestrian connector trails**; or on a service trail road posted open.

Camping, use prohibited in certain locations.

(6) A person shall not camp within the S1/2 of the SW1/4 of the SW1/4 and the SW1/4 of the SE1/4 of the SW1/4 of section 22, and the NE1/4 of the NW1/4, and the NW1/4 of the NE1/4 of section 27, T33N R1W, and the SW1/4 of the NW1/4 of the SW1/4 of section 5, and the SW1/4 of the NW1/4 of the NW1/4 and the NW1/4 of the SW1/4 of the NW1/4 of section 20, T32N R2W.

Entry prohibited at a certain location.

(7) A person who does not have authorization from the Department shall not enter upon those lands bounded on the south and east by sturgeon valley road, on the west by Pickerel lake road, and on the north by the electrical transmission line, within the NW1/4 of section 24, T32N R2W.

Snowmobile operation; prohibited.

(8) A person shall not operate a snowmobile except for otherwise lawful operation upon a county road or upon a forest road designated and illustrated as open on the pigeon river country state forest access map.

Camping, use restriction in certain locations.

(9) A person shall not camp within 600 feet of the following described lakes:

- (a) Hemlock lake- T33N, R1W, sections 34 and 35, Cheboygan county.
- (b) Ford lake- T32N- R1W, section 8, Otsego county.
- (c) West lost lake- T32N, R1W, section 3, Otsego county.
- (d) Section four lake- T32N, R1W, section 4, Otsego county.
- (e) Lost lake- T32N, R1W, section 2 and 3, Otsego county.
- (f) North twin lake- T32N, R1W, section 10, Otsego county.
- (g) South twin lake- T32N, R1W, section 10, Otsego county.

Watercraft, use restrictions in certain locations.

(10) Only non-motorized watercraft or those using electric motors may be launched from state-owned land onto any of the following described lakes:

- (a) Hemlock lake- T33N, R1W, sections 34 and 35, Cheboygan county.
- (b) Ford lake- T32N- R1W, section 8, Otsego county.
- (c) West lost lake- T32N, R1W, section 3, Otsego county.

(11) No motorized or non-motorized watercraft with the exception of float tubes (a small one-person watercraft or flotation device, typically based on an inflatable tube that fits around the user's abdomen), may be launched from state-owned land onto any of the following described lakes:

- (a) Section four lake- T32N, R1W, section 4, Otsego county.
- (b) Lost lake- T32N, R1W, section 2 and 3, Otsego county.
- (c) North twin lake- T32N, R1W, section 10, Otsego county.
- (d) South twin lake- T32N, R1W, section 10, Otsego county.

Bicycling restricted to certain roads and pathways.

(12) A person shall not ride a bicycle except on the following roads and pathways:

- (a) Upon a county road or upon a forest road designated and illustrated as open on the pigeon river country state forest access map.
- (b) High country pathway.
- (c) Shingle mill pathway.
- (d) Pickerel lake pathway.

This amended order shall be posted on or after April 15, 2016.

Issued on this 14th day of April 2016.

Approved as to matters over which the Director has authority.

William E. Moritz, Ph.D.
Director

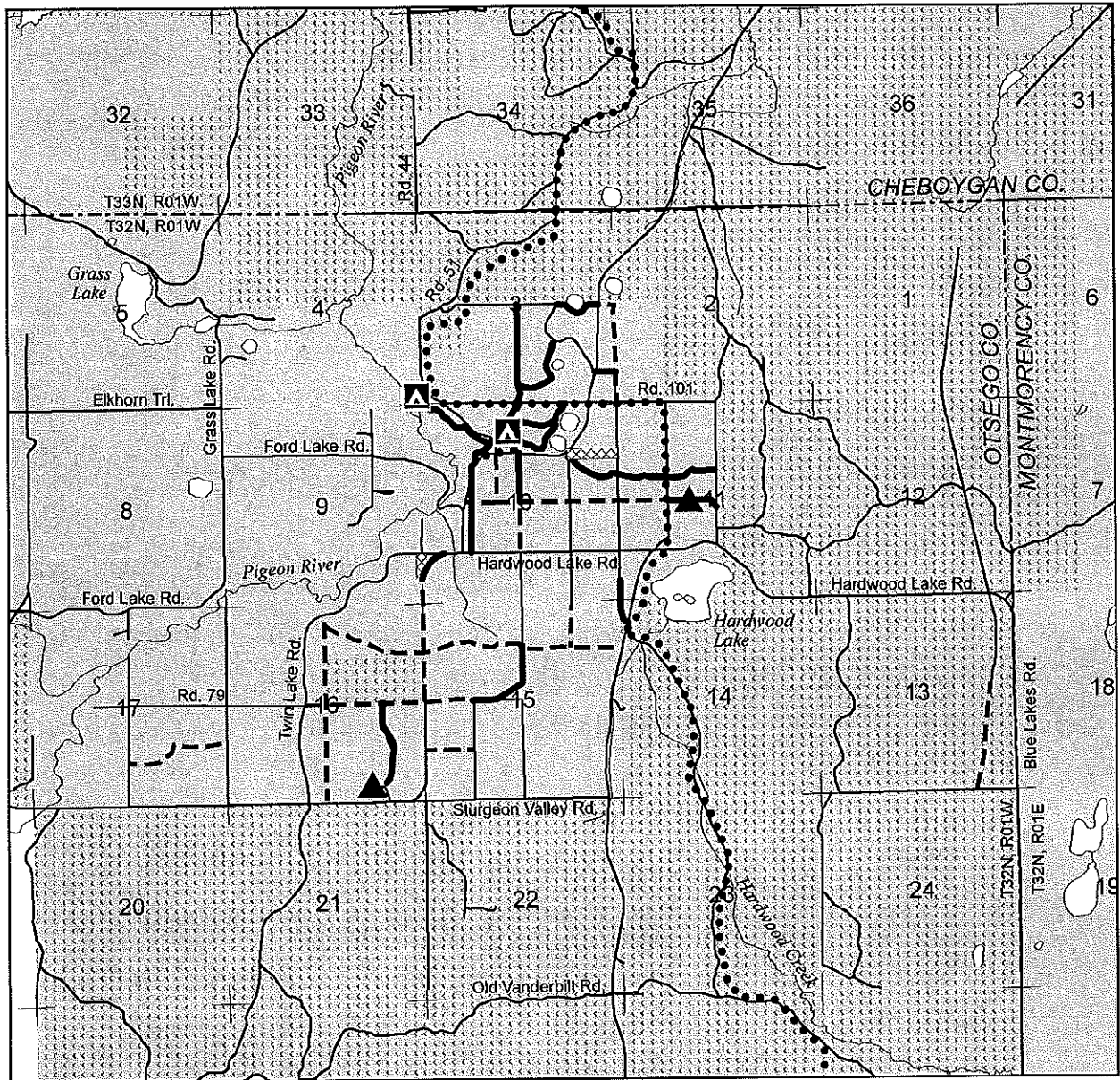
EQUESTRIAN RIDING AND CAMPING

Land Use Order of the Director, Amendment No.3 of 2016

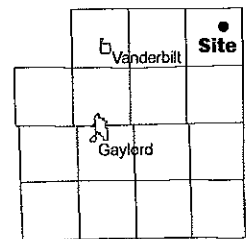
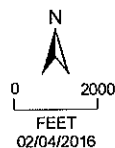
Pigeon River Country Forest Management Unit

Compartments 33 and 35-37

T33N, R01W, Corwith Township, Otsego County



- Equestrian trail camp
- Remote horse camp
- Proposed equestrian connecting trails
- Existing equestrian connecting trails
- Proposed reroute of equestrian connector
- Game & Fish Fund lands
- Shore to Shore Riding/Hiking Trail
- State land
- Roads open to equestrians



OTSEGO COUNTY